

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Summary of Proposed Changes to Ambient Surface Water Quality Criteria
Proposed Chapter 584

State-Wide Criteria

- Uses updated information from EPA to set criteria for specific substances
- Provides, in Appendix A, specific numeric values for priority and other selected pollutants
- Provides default assumptions for physical characteristics: form of metals, hardness, temperature, pH, and salinity
- Allows local physical characteristics to replace defaults in conjunction with Chapter 530
- Establishes a default fish consumption rate consistent with current Bureau of Health recommendations
- Clarifies procedures used for proposing alternate state-wide criteria
- Mercury and dioxin criteria are addressed separately in State law

Site-Specific Criteria

- Allows DEP to modify all permits affecting a receiving water where site-specific criteria are being considered
- Provides more detail on information needed to support a request for human health site-specific criteria
- Relies on EPA methodology for development of human health criteria
- Methods for considering site-specific aquatic criteria are largely unchanged

DEP website for information on toxics rule changes:

<http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/watertoxicsrule.htm>

(or www.maine.gov/dep ⇒ Bureau of Land and Water ⇒ What's New ⇒ Rulemaking Review
⇒ Amendments to Chapter 530.5 ⇒ more information)

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Comparison of current and proposed state-wide ambient water quality criteria for some pollutants of interest. Proposed values are calculated using the assumptions in the draft rule.

Fresh Water Criteria

Substance	Aquatic Acute		Aquatic Chronic		Human Health	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L
Aluminum	750	750	87	87	---	---
Ammonia	16400	24100	1230	3000	---	---
Antimony	88	---	30	---	14	5.5
Arsenic	360	340	190	150	0.018	0.012
Cadmium	0.638	0.42	0.32	0.08	---	---
Chlorine	19	19	11	11	---	---
Chromium III	465	483	55.4	23.1	---	---
Copper	3.89	3.07	2.99	2.36	1300	1300
Cyanide	22	22	5.2	5.2	700	140
Lead	10.52	10.52	0.41	0.41	---	---
Nickel	363	120	40.4	13.4	610	400
Silver	0.92	0.23	0.12	---	---	---
Zinc	29.9	30.6	27.1	30.6	---	6000
Heptachlor	0.52	0.52	0.0038	0.0038	0.00021	0.00043
Bis2 Phthalate	400	---	360	---	1.76	0.8

Marine Water Criteria

Substance	Aquatic Acute		Aquatic Chronic		Human Health	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L	ug/L
Aluminum	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ammonia	7300	7300	1100	1100	---	---
Antimony	1500	---	500	---	4300	350
Arsenic	69	69	36	36	0.14	0.028
Cadmium	43	40	9.3	8.85	---	---
Chlorine	13	13	7.5	7.5	---	---
Chromium III	10300	---	---	---	---	---
Copper	2.9	5.78	2.9	3.73	---	---
Cyanide	1	1	1	1	220000	140
Lead	220	221	8.5	8.52	---	---
Nickel	75	75	8.3	8.28	4600	1000
Silver	7.2	2.24	0.92	---	---	---
Zinc	95	95	86	86	---	14000
Heptachlor	0.053	0.053	0.0036	0.0036	0.00021	0.00043
Bis2 Phthalate	400	---	360	---	5.92	1.19